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11. (Amended) A bluntable needle assembly comprising:

a needle component comprising a housing and a needle cannula mounted in the housing, the needle cannula having a sharp tip; and

a blunting component comprising a shuttle member and a blunting probe mounted on the shuttle member, the shuttle member defining a fluid chamber and an access port for fluid flow, and the blunting probe having a blunt tip and a rearward end open to the fluid chamber;

wherein the blunting probe is disposed within the needle cannula and the needle component and the blunting component are configured for movement from a sharpened configuration to locking engagement in a blunted configuration with a detent and stay engagement between them, the detent being movable between (i) a locking position in which it may bear against the stay and prevent the needle assembly from moving to the sharpened configuration and (ii) an unlocked position which permits the needle assembly to move to the sharpened configuration.

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sic

15. (Amended) The needle assembly of claim 11 wherein the shuttle member comprises the movable detent.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1-9 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, and claims 10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Rejection of Claims 6 and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, on the basis that certain language therein lacks antecedent support. Claim 6 has been amended in a non-limiting manner to clearly refer to the rearward open end of the blunting probe recited in claim 1, from which claim 6 depends. The amendment to claim 11 provides antecedent support for the language objected to in claim 16. In view of these amendments, the stated grounds of rejection are believed to have been fully addressed.